

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

EVONNE STOUT,

Plaintiff,

v.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL
SECURITY,

Defendant.

Case No. C19-1994-MLP

ORDER

This matter is before the Court on the Commissioner's unopposed motion for extension of time.¹ (Dkt. # 8.) The Commissioner moves for a 28-day stay as it works to regain its capacity to produce the certified transcript of record necessary to submit an answer in this matter. (*Id.*) The Commissioner represents that the current COVID-19 pandemic has impacted operations in the Office of Appellate Operations that is responsible for physically producing the transcript. (*Id.*) Specifically, the Commissioner states staff members are teleworking and therefore unable to perform in-person physical tasks associated with preparing transcripts. (*Id.*) The Commissioner

¹ The Commissioner's motion is fashioned as a motion for extension of time but requests a stay of proceedings. (Dkt. # 8 at 1.)

1 represents that although it is working to find a solution, it has yet to do so. (*Id.*) Plaintiff has no
2 objection to the Commissioner's motion to stay. (Dkt. # 10.)

3 The Court is cognizant of the impact COVID-19 has had on all parties to litigate social
4 security matters. However, in the interest of adjudicating this matter efficiently, the Court
5 declines the Commissioner's request for a stay. Instead, the Court grants the Commissioner a 28-
6 day extension to either obtain the required transcript and submit an answer or seek an additional
7 extension.

8 Dated this 29th day of April, 2020.

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11 MICHELLE L. PETERSON
12 United States Magistrate Judge
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